Act, 1967, declaration of the entire State of Assam as "disturbed area" nnder the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modernizations/upgradation of State Police Force. Regular review of the situation both at the level of State and Central Government is being made.

Ratification of UN Convention against torture

1827. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) why the Union Government have not thought it fit to ratify the United Nations Convention against torture; and

(b) the number of torture cases reported and the cases of death in police custody in the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Union Government has not yet ratified the United Nations Convention against torture as there is need to bring the existing legislation in conformity with the provisions of the convention.

(b) The number of cases reported with regard to torture and death in police custody to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as below:—

Year	Cases of torture	Cases of death
1999-2000	716	177
2000-2001	611	127
2001-2002	447	158